

MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL WORKSESSION/ROUNDTABLE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
YUMA CITY HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM 190
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
APRIL 20, 2010
3:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Krieger called the City Council meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Stuart, Mendoza, Beeson, McClendon, Brooks-Gurrola, Johnson and Mayor Krieger
Councilmembers Absent: none
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Greg Wilkinson
Public Works, Director of Field Operations, Joel Olea
Various Department Heads or their representative
City Clerk, Brigitta M. Kuiper

I. CITY RECYCLING PROGRAM

Olea briefed the City Council as follows:

- Curbside recycling would mean the City would provide an additional container to residents who would sort their materials between recyclables and trash; twice weekly pickups would continue with one for recyclables and one for trash.
- Common home recyclables: newsprint, magazine, metal cans from canned goods, aluminum cans, plastic water bottles, and cardboard; glass cannot be accommodated at this time.
- Additional components needed to begin curbside recycling program: additional containers, education and compliance, and material recovery facility (MRF).
 - Containers: 22,000 residents at \$55 per container – total \$1.2 million to provide recycle container
 - Education and compliance – critical component
 - Educational campaign: Local schools, neighborhood outreach, and commercials
 - Adoption of local ordinances and code compliance officer - \$140,000 annually
 - MRF
 - Facility would process curbside recyclables
 - Recyclables deposited on conveyor belt and hand sorted
 - Recyclables bundled and stored until marketed
- Variables
 - Market prices for recycled materials
 - Full public participation – contamination issues
 - Location of MRF and possible need to transport materials
 - Current landfill charge: \$26.20 per ton
 - Generally, the goal of recycling programs is to divert 20% of the waste stream to recycling
 - Savings will accrue from reduced landfill charges.

- Request for Proposal (RFP):
 - Only a request for proposal will answer the unknown questions: What will the recycled material be worth? Will the City receive a rebate from its recycled materials? Will a local vendor accept the materials for free or will there be a charge for him to take them?
- Impacts
 - Major change in service
 - New costs: \$140,000 for code compliance and education annually plus \$1.2 million for containers
 - No MRF in Yuma at this time
 - Potential savings to be identified through RFP

Discussion

- Trash service will remain the same, but each resident would get an additional blue container for recyclables.
- A number of individuals on the faculty and in the student body of Arizona Western College (AWC) are very interested in starting a recycling program. If the City moves forward with a recycling program, AWC would be a major partner in the educational component.
- Other municipalities have found that the volume of trash is lessened by residents breaking down their cardboard.
- Recycle bins would be curbside, not in an alley.
- Residents would have to learn to park curbside around a recycling pickup schedule.
- The City would have to apply for a variance from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) in order to change its pickup service; it is a widely accepted practice to go to one trash pickup and one recyclables pickup per week. It would take approximately 8 months to complete the variance process. The Yuma County Health Department would also have to approve the change.
- What is the impact of picking up wet garbage only once a week in the summer?
- Upfront costs – not currently budgeted for – would run approximately \$1.4 million

II. YUMA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/BETTERYUMA.ORG - RECYCLING

Ken Rosevear, Executive Director of the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce, presented the following recycling program proposal:

- Recycling Program: Public/private partnership - City of Yuma; Mission Disposal of Yuma; BetterYuma.org; and, Yuma County Chamber of Commerce
 - Yuma is the largest metropolitan area in Arizona without recycling.
 - Win-win for the City and community
 - Highly efficient and cost saving
- Details of program
 - Comingling of recyclables – mirror of Flagstaff recycling program
 - Acceptable items:
 - cardboard and paper, including magazines, newspapers, catalogs, white and colored paper, letters, and junk mail
 - empty steel, tin and aluminum cans

- Paper board, including dry food boxes, such as for cereal, cake mix, crackers, beer and soda carriers, clean pizza
 - Glass bottles and containers only
- Weekly pickup – all residential accounts to receive 32 to 50 gallon container
 - Solid waste pickup once per week
 - Recycled items picked up once per week and taken to existing recycling sorting center
- Containers purchased through federal “green” grant submitted by City of Yuma – 16 federal agencies offer recycling grants.
- Advantages/benefits
 - Establishes a certified recycling program
 - Cuts landfill fees up to 30% in first 12 months – a savings to the City
 - Creates 15 new private sector jobs
 - No cash outlay for City
 - Possible rebate from recycling sorting center; possible income stream for City
- Targeted implementation date: January 1, 2011

Rosevear noted that the City’s proposal differs from the Chamber’s proposal in that glass would be accepted and the Chamber’s program would use an existing recycling sorting center. The Chamber’s program would involve distributing larger recycling containers in alleys, alongside the regular trash containers, which would eliminate curbside problems. The Chamber and BetterYuma.org would participate in marketing the program.

Discussion

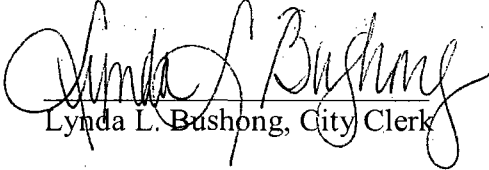
- What is a certified recycling program?
 - The EPA establishes certain stipulations regarding recycling and certifies those programs that are compliant.
- It would be more efficient to have the recycling container located next to the trash container; the size of the recycling container will reflect the size of the trash container it accompanies, being slightly smaller.
- The existing recycling sorting center would not charge the City to take its recyclables and the City would see savings in landfill costs.
- The program would not go forward until a grant to purchase the containers was in hand.
 - Yuma’s state legislators would be encouraged to assist the City in this effort.
- Allied Waste is recycling commercial cardboard only. Mission Disposal is recycling all commercial recyclables it picks up. Commercial recycling is not available through the City because the City does not pickup commercial waste.
- New recycling containers would need to fit the type of truck doing the pickup.
- Based on other recent landfill contracts, the landfill would probably not need to raise its tipping fees to offset revenue lost to recycling.

Todd Mattern, Mission Disposal, explained that in San Diego, enforcement was a deterrent; once the requirement was dropped, compliance increased. It’s understood that there will be some trash in the recyclables and it can be dealt with. Mission Disposal is proposing to offer a negotiated rebate to the City on a quarterly or annual basis. Once you educate the children, they will direct their parents on how to sort the recyclables. Northern Arizona University put together the recycling program for Flagstaff and they are running at 33% recyclables.

Wilkinson summed up the two proposals: The Chambers' proposal would not require any initial costs for containers and the use of AWC, the Chamber and BetterYuma.org would cut down on educational and outreach costs. Staff can begin working on a grant.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

Motion (Johnson/Beeson): To adjourn to Executive Session. Voice vote: **adopted** 7-0; The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.


Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:


Alan L. Krieger, Mayor

